

APPLICANT(S): PATERSON, Yvonne et al.
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method of enhancing the immunogenicity of a bacterial vaccine vector expressing a heterologous antigen, the method comprising the steps of: a) administering to ~~[[an]]~~ a non-human animal the bacterial vaccine vector; b) passaging the bacterial vaccine vector through the animal; c) harvesting the bacterial vaccine vector from a normal organ or normal tissue in the non-human animal; and d) repeating step a), step b), and step c) with the harvested bacterial vaccine vector until a maximum bacterial ~~[[load]]~~ virulence for said vector in ~~[[an]]~~ said organ or tissue is reached and virulence of said vector is stabilized, thereby enhancing the immunogenicity of the bacterial vaccine vector, wherein the bacterial vaccine vector is a Listeria vaccine vector.
2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the organ is a spleen or liver.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the antigen is a tumor antigen.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the animal is a mammal.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the mammal is a mouse.
9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the bacterial vaccine vector is administered to ~~[[the]]~~ a human via oral or parenteral administration following the step of harvesting the vector after achieving a maximum bacterial virulence in said non-human animal.
10. (Withdrawn) A bacterial vaccine vector having enhanced immunogenicity wherein the immunogenicity of the bacterial vaccine vector is enhanced by a) administering to an animal the bacterial vaccine vector; b) passaging the bacterial vaccine vector through the animal; c) harvesting the bacterial vaccine vector from the animal, and; d) repeating step a), step b), and step c) until a maximum bacterial load in an organ is reached.

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11. (Withdrawn) The bacterial vaccine vector of claim 10, wherein the organ is a spleen or liver.
12. (Withdrawn) The bacterial vaccine vector of claim 10, wherein the bacterial vaccine vector expresses an antigen.
13. (Withdrawn) The bacterial vaccine vector of claim 12, wherein the antigen is a heterologous antigen.
14. (Withdrawn) The bacterial vaccine vector of claim 12, wherein the antigen is a tumor antigen.
15. (Withdrawn) The bacterial vaccine vector of claim 10, wherein the bacterial vaccine vector is a *Listeria* vaccine vector.
16. (Withdrawn) The bacterial vaccine vector of claim 10, wherein the animal is a mammal.
17. (Withdrawn) The bacterial vaccine vector of claim 16, wherein the mammal is a mouse.
18. (Withdrawn) The bacterial vaccine vector of claim 10, wherein the bacterial vaccine vector is administered to the animal via oral or parenteral administration.
19. (Withdrawn) The bacterial vaccine vector of claim 10, wherein the bacterial vaccine vector comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
20. (Currently amended) A method of enhancing the immunogenicity of an antigen expressed from a bacterial vaccine vector, the method comprising the steps of: a) administering to [[an]] a non-human animal the bacterial vaccine vector; b) passaging the bacterial vaccine vector through the non-human animal; c) harvesting the bacterial vaccine vector from a normal organ or normal tissue in the non-human animal; and d) repeating step a), step b), and step c) with the harvested bacterial vaccine vector until a maximum bacterial [[load]] virulence for said vector in [[an]] said organ or tissue is reached and virulence of said vector is stabilized, wherein the bacterial vaccine vector is a *Listeria* vaccine vector.
21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the organ is a spleen or liver.
22. (Cancelled)
23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the antigen is a tumor antigen.

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24. (Cancelled)
25. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the animal is a mammal.
26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the mammal is a mouse.
27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the bacterial vaccine vector is administered to ~~[[the]]~~ a human via oral or parenteral administration following the step of harvesting the vector after achieving a maximum bacterial virulence in said non-human animal.
28. (Withdrawn) A kit comprising the bacterial vaccine vector having enhanced immunogenicity of claim 10, wherein the kit comprises an applicator and an instructional material for use thereof.
29. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 28, wherein the bacterial vaccine vector is lyophilized.
30. (Withdrawn and Currently amended) The kit of claim 28, wherein the kit further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.